

Meeting of the Highland Silver Lake Advisory Commission was called to order at 7:00PM, on Thursday, January 15, 2015. Members present: Fred Bircher, Gary Pugh, Bill Ambuehl, Sally Raeber, Dave Frey, Dan Shimer, Ron Wagner & department personnel Ryan Hummert, Natural Resources Manager & Mark Rosen, Director of Parks & Recreation.

Absent: Randy Ammann

In light of Chairman Ammann's absence, Gary Pugh served as the acting chairman. Motion to approve minutes of October 14, 2014 was made by Dave Frey; Seconded by Ron Wagner.

Bill Ambuehl made a motion to add an agenda item under New Business; purchase of land.

Old Business:

- Dykstra Property – Ryan Hummert gave an update on his communications with the Dykstra family in regards to the erosion from their property entering Silver Lake. The plan is to introduce rip-rap and line the gully leading toward the lake. Minimal clearing of brush and small trees would be the extent of the work prior to installing rip-rap. Mark Rosen stated that he talked with the city's attorney about drafting an easement for accessing their property as well. The easement would traverse along the western portion of their property to the head-way of where the erosion begins.
- Old City Lake's Dam – nothing to report as no progress has been made by Hunsche Excavating.

New Business:

- Eagle Scout candidate Gavin Kohlbrecher presented his potential Eagle Scout Project of a fish cleaning station. His hopes are to have a covered table placed just north of the ADA fishing dock. His needs would be to have electric to shred entrails of fish and utilize a foot pump in order to draw water from the lake. All waste would be put back into the lake. Commission member Ron Wagner expressed his only concern with allowing catfish to be cleaned as the bones and head could/would choke up the disposal but overall, the commission supports this project and believes it would be an asset to the anglers. Gavin was asked to keep the commission updated on his progress and share a drawing of it when he received it.
- Purchase of Property: Mark Rosen shared information with the commission related to approximately 3.5 acres of property that is available for sale in the northern reaches of Silver Lake. The property abuts Illinois 160 and city property near the site of the underground oil/gas line. This would be a vital location for providing lake access for emergencies and future dredging projects; among others. The commission all voted in favor of this purchase based on fair market value.

Commission comments: Ron Wagner expressed his concern about the ability to properly maintain bass counts in Silver Lake and shared his discussion he had with the area's fish biologist; Fred Cronin. Mr. Cronin's assessment is that the silt in Silver Lake typically suffocates the fingerlings and the size of the fish typically stocked in this lake are too small. However, because the state pays for these fish and there is no cost to the city of Highland, introducing larger fish will cost approximately \$2.50/fish.

This prompted discussion on utilizing Bargetzi Lake as a fish breeding pond where the smaller sized bass can be placed and then harvested and relocated to Silver Lake. Ryan Hummert stated he would follow up with Mr. Cronin on this thought and will report back in April.

It was also recommended by Mr. Cronin to place "no fishing" signs at Rinderer Park's pond/lake immediately and to place a moratorium on fishing in this water body for a minimum of 4 years.

Ron Wagner made a motion to adjourn at 7:40PM – seconded by Dan Shimer.